

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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SAM-01 EB-11 SAJ-01 NEA-11 DRC-01 /105 W

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R 151638Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8167

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1117

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, SP

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER CORTINA'S VISIT TO FRANCE

1. ALLEGING LACK OF FULL INFORMATION, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS (AGUIRRE DE CARCER) WAS ABLE ONLY TO PROVIDE SKETCHY BRIEFING ON FOREIGN MINISTER CORTINA'S VISIT TO PARIS JAN 30-31. ACCORDING TO AGUIRRE, CORTINA HAD SERIOUS TALKS ONLY WITH JOBERT AND POMPIDOU, THE LATTER FOR ONE HOUR. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT MOST OF CONVERSATIONS DEALT WITH CURRENT UNEASE IN FRENCH-SPANISH RELATIONS OVER ACTIVITIES OF BASQUE TERRORISTS OPERATING FROM ASYLUM IN FRANCE.

2. AQUIRRE STATED FRENCH ONCE AGAIN STRESSED POLITICAL DIFFICULTY OF TYPE OF CARCKDOWN THAT SPANISH SEEK, BUT DID NOTE FRENCH GOVERNMENT

SUPPRESSION OF ENBATA AND THREE OTHER SEPARATIST ORGANIZATIONS AS GESTURE IN RESPONSE TO SPANISH CONCERN. HE STATES CORTINA ACKNOWLEDGE FRENCH ACT AS STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION, BUT STRESSED THAT SPANISH PUBLIC OPINION WAS REACTING NEGATIVELY TO FRENCH BEHAVIOR ON BASQUE PROBLEM. CORTINA ASSURED, HOWEVER, THAT SPANISH GOVERNMENT WHILE ITS ATTITUDE COULD ULTIMATELY BE AFFECTED BY PUBLIC OPINION
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BACKLASH, IS STILL ONE OF CLOSE COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP

WITH FRANCE ON OFFICIAL LEVEL. CORTINA REPORTEDLY PRESSED THEME THAT GOS WOULD HAVE TO HAVE FURTHER FRENCH COOPERATION IF SPANISH PUBLIC OPINION WERE TO BE MOLLIFIED. AGUIRRE ADDED THAT MUCH OF CORTINA'S TIME IN PARIS HAD BEEN CONSUMED IN NON-SUBSTANTIVE PROTOCOLARY FAREWELLS.

4. AGUIRRE ALSO REVEALED THAT FORMAL EXTRADITION REQUEST HAD BEEN PRESENTED TO FRENCH THROUGH SPANISH EMBASSY IN PARIS WITHIN PAST FEW WEEKS. HE SAID SPANISH REQUEST SEEKS EXTRADITION OF 10 (RATHER THAN 6 ORIGINALLY NAMED IN LOCAL PRESS), SPANISH CITIZENS EVIDENCE GIVEN FRENCH SHOWS WERE DIRECTLY INVOLVED OR ACCOMPLICES IN ASSASSINATION OF CARRERO. HE DESCRIBED MATERIAL SUBMITTED TO GOF AS "VERY FULL AND CONVINCING DOSSIERS COMPLETE WITH FINGERPRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS."

5. COMMENT: REACTION IN PRESS AND GOVERNMENT CIRCLES TO FRENCH MOVES AGAINST SEPARATISTS HAS BEEN ONE OF POLITE SKEPTICISM, WITH MODEST GRATITUDE FOR THE GESTURE. EMBASSY SOURCES IN MFA AND HIGH GENERAL STAFF TAKE LINE--ECHOED BY PRESS--THAT FRENCH OUTLAWING OF EMBATA WILL HAVE SAME LACK OF EFFECT ON BASQUE ACTIVITIES AS DID PREVIOUS FRENCH OUTLAWING OF ETA. LOCAL PRESS HAS VIRTUALLY CEASED REPORTAGE OF FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATION OF CARRERO ASSASSINATION AND DIPLOMATIC MANEUVERS WITH FRANCE TO GAIN EXTRADITION. IN ABSENCE OF SOLID INFORMATION RUMORS ABOUND TO AFFECT THAT GOS NOT TALKING BECAUSE IT REALLY HAS NO CONVINCING EVIDENCE ON IDENTITY OR WHEREABOUTS OF CARRERO'S ASSASSINS.
RIVERO

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